Militant Labour

STRUGGLE! SOLIDARITY! SOCIALISM!

THROUGHOUT THE Troubles Militant Labour has consistently fought for working class unity and socialism as the only solution.

We have always argued that the only force which could defeat the British ruling class and remove the basis for sectarian division was the working class.

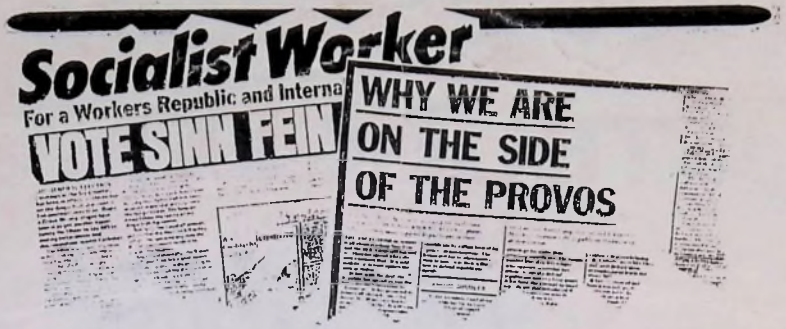
When the IRA campaign began — in response to discrimination, poverty and repression — we opposed it on tactical, not moral grounds. We said that the methods of struggle adopted by the Provisionals, as well as the non-socialist ideas of their leadership, would only deepen sectarian division and would not succeed. To this we counterposed unity of the working class in the struggle for socialism throughout Ireland and mass action in the form of street resistance alongside strikes and demonstrations as opposed to the bomb and bullet. We therefore welcome the IRA ceasefire, and that of the loyalists, as offering the possibility to reject sectarian politics and build a new socialist movement.

Our difference today with Sinn Fein is that in giving up the armed struggle they have gone further and given up the idea of struggle altogether. The idea that forging an alliance with right wing nationalist organisations including the Southern Irish establishment will advance the interests, either of Protestant or Catholic workers here, is false through and through. We would welcome a political settlement. But talks between right-wing and sectarian parties divided into unionist and nationalist blocs will not bring one about.

We need to build a political force to challenge these people and to represent the united interests of the working class as a whole.

Militant Labour is now campaigning within the trade unions and within the working class communities for the building of a broad based socialist party to provide this challenge. Militant Labour is also campaigning on day to day issues — from opposing repression, including the new Criminal Justice Act, to supporting the Animal Rights blockade at Aldergrove, to fighting privatisation.

If you agree that it is now time for class politics join Militant Labour. Fill in the form overleaf.



The past the Socialist Workers Movement would like you to forget

"We give unconditional support to the IRA in their fight against the Northern state and we defend their right to take up arms against British imperialism".

"The greatest blow for working class unity would be the forced withdrawal of the British army. Only then would the mass of Protestant workers be forced to face the reality of losing marginal privileges and see themselves as part of a wider class".

Quotes from a Sinn Fein representative? No, these are quotations from Socialist Worker on whose behalf Eamonn McCann is debating here tonight.

Had this debate taken place earlier in the Troubles, on the crucial questions of the IRA campaign and working class unity, the speakers would have been on the same side.

It is quite legitimate for a political organisation to change its views — provided it does so openly and honestly. The problem with Socialist Worker is that they falsely and dishonestly claim that they were advocates of working class unity and that they opposed the IRA all along.

How can people who agree with what Socialist Worker say today be reassured that they will not perform another political somersault tomorrow?

JOIN MILITANT LABOUR

If you would like more information ☐ would like to join ☐ please fill in this form and return to the address below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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Return to; Militant Labour, 36 Victoria Square, Belfast. BT1 4QB